



# Manito United Methodist Church

Spokane, Washington

## Creation Care Class

Beginning on January 9, Manito will be hosting a class that is open to all of Spokane, The Spokane350 organization is asking that the book study of “Wake Up World, Hope Through Understanding” be help before April 2024.

The book was written by a retired Methodist pastor, Dr Robert Dygert-Gearheart and his wife, Anita, as part of an Earthkeepers project. They wanted to present to the world a book that focuses on hope as opposed to the doom and gloom that is out there regarding the climate crisis.

The study will meet on Tuesdays, January 9-February 13th or 20th. A soup dinner will be provided at 6:00pm and the study following dinner. If you are unable to attend in person, please let Pastor Sandy know. We may be able to add a zoom link. If your are interested in the book study, let the office know so we can get enough books.



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# A Message from Our Pastor



Friends,

A new year means new opportunity. A chance to clean up what burdens us and lay foundations for what we can be. A time to dream a little or a lot, to take baby steps or make bold footprints where we are able to initiate goodness, justice, and care where we need it most.

For me, creation care and climate justice are surfacing as matters of great urgency. The time is now to heed the warnings, to learn what science is revealing, and acknowledge our theological imperatives to care for the earth and all that is in it.

Jesus said the kingdom of God is among us. (Luke 17:21) It is our gift and our responsibility to repair, restore, care, and build up all that contributes to making this kingdom a reality for all people. And that starts with relationships - right relationships with God, with one another, and with God's creation. God who creates, redeems and sustains, and who crafted a universe so amazingly dense with biodiversity so as to support life in many forms, and in many ways.

This year I invite us to think about how we not only make an impact on God's kingdom here on earth, but also how we lead the reforming and restoration of natural creation in our environment, our seas, and our cosmos. A good start might be by joining our study "Wake Up World" on Tuesday evenings, or reading the Creation Justice tips published in our newsletters. Maybe you adopt one new habit that helps ease carbon emissions and reduces waste. We can all do something to be a change agent, even things that are inconvenient and a little bit hard.

Author Jim Antal writes "One of the key functions of the church is to help people to find meaning as they join together in finding a common purpose". Creation care and climate justice is a concern for many people, across many generations. That is why the church has an important role to play - to bring us together in the initiative and moral imperative to save the planet for the betterment of our lives now and for our children, grandchildren and their children.

Mother Teresa once reminded us that "if we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other". In this new year, let us be purveyors of peace through creation care and climate justice.

Blessings for a wonderful new year.  
Pastor Sandy



ABRAMS, Jan	01/06
CARYL, Rebecca	01/05
LAUDER, Cecilia	01/10
MILLER, Maureen	01/13
BUDGE, Wendy	01/14
BAFUS, Chris	01/16
EBERLE, Tom	01/18
BRANSON, Amy	01/20
HERBEY, Patti	01/23
MCNALLY, Pat	02/14
BAFUS, Allison	02/20
PLUMMER, Sue	02/20
CHINN, George	02/22
KUNEY, Sarah	02/23
SWANSON, Tedd	02/25

## Mission News

### “Essentials” Pantry

The Essentials Pantry is off and running. Each month there will be an update on what items are needed. We have had at least one person come and she was very grateful that we had dish soap and laundry soap. We are thinking of expanding the pantry to have diapers and children’s clothes. There has been questions asked for both. You can bring items at any time. Think of the pantry when you are out shopping. If you bring one thing it might be the one thing someone needs. No donation is too small.



### Period Packs

The first round of period packs for Church World Service (CWS) are nearly complete. Girl Scout Troop 551 has put what they can together. They have donated money to help purchase supplies still needed to complete the packs. Once school begins in January, they will complete the ones we have and get the information to Tiffany at CWS. This has been a great mission to girls and women in our community. In future newsletters/eblasts, you will be informed of what is needed to finish up the rest of the period packs. Thank you so much for your donations to this project.

### ECEAP Christmas Donations

Again, Manito friends have outdone themselves with gifts for our low income Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) families. We were able to take on 6 families. The director told me that many of the families were in tears when they picked up their gifts.



### January H.U.G.S. Project



Through out the month of January the church will be collecting H.U.G.S. items. These items are Hats, Underwear, Gloves, and Socks for men, women, and children. At the end of January, the items will be distributed to organizations that can get them to those who need them.

# God's Window People

## Manito Sees God Through the Windows of:



### Art/Music

Art Shows, Art Classes, Art as a medium for healing and change, Community Concerts, Partnering with other churches, Youth Symphony.

### Climate/Social Justice

Xeriscape of church yard, Up the use of durable goods, Increase recycling and reusing, Create a Green Team, Climate Justice Book Study, Participate in Community Events around climate and social justice issues, Partner with Indigenous People.



### Community

Essentials Pantry, Partnerships with local agencies, preschool programs, recovery programs, deaf and hard of hearing community, boy and girl schouts, Green Team invitation, School supplies for Sacajawea, Tree of Sharing, HUGS for winter needs, Community Happenings Bulletin board, participating in local and national events.



### Worship

Inclusive, relevant, and theology based, ASL interpreted for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Quality live stream and recorded services, Climate justice alternative service, Advent and Lenten Activities and studies.





Look back at the past year. What actions did you take for the environment? Make a list, personally, with your family, or with a friend and celebrate all that you have done. **Challenge yourself to add new actions in the coming year.** What have you heard about or seen that you can incorporate into your faith commitment to care for God’s creation and to work for justice?

Start the new year with a new mindset. Along with everyone else, you’ve been pushed into seeing yourself as a “consumer”—that is, one who uses things up and tosses them out. You can make a significant change in yourself and ultimately for the good of the earth by changing the way you think. **Explore being a minimalist as a practical and faithful way of being.**

You may not think of Martin Luther King, Jr. in relationship to the environment, but corporate and governmental practices that despoil the land or water affect people of color to a far greater degree than richer and whiter communities. King stood against racism, including environmental racism. **Caring for creation also means working for justice.** Honor his legacy with action on behalf of people of color and indigenous tribes.

According to Project Drawdown, the #3 effective solution for dealing with the climate crisis is to **minimize food waste**. Some food-waste issues are systemic, but many come down to things individuals and families can do. Plan meals, buy local, buy less, buy in-season, buy organic, store appropriately, use the freezer, reduce the intake of beef and other meat, grow veggies, eat leftovers, make soup and smoothies, compost peelings and ends, share with others. Eat happily, knowing you are helping us all.

**Take stock of your energy usage.** Contact your utilities to see if they will do an energy audit of your home. Usually, those are free and helpful. Alternatively, you can examine your electric and gas bills, comparing several years of data if possible. Then use the data on an online calculator, such as [Energy Use Calculator.com](https://www.energyusecalculator.com), the carbon footprint calculator from [The Nature Conservancy](https://www.thenatureconservancy.org) or from [Carbon FootPrint.com](https://www.carbonfootprint.com).

**Put your land or your rooftop to work.** Contact a community solar provider to see if what you have to offer is a good candidate for them to lease. Community solar programs need space. If you have it, you can benefit financially from the lease and know that others will benefit from your choice to help the economy move to renewables.

**Recycle old denim into new insulation.** Cotton’s Blue Jeans Go Green repurposes any denim apparel and puts it to good use. Since 2019, the program has diverted 87.5 tons of waste from landfills and processed more than 72,000 denim items in 2021 alone. Shipping is free. Visit their [website](https://www.bluejeansgo.org).



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Volunteer time is needed in all aspects of the church life. If you can help with any of the following, it would be greatly appreciated. The church is embarking on a new journey and it needs everyone to play a part, no matter how small.

- 1 BUILDING A NEW BADGE HOLDER FOR OUTSIDE THE SANCTUARY
- 2 PREPARING SOUP FOR THE CLIMATE JUSTICE STUDY
- 3 REPLACING PAPER TOWEL HOLDERS
- 4 HELPING WITH MAILINGS
- 5 VOLUNTEERING IN M&M TOTS

If you can help in any of these areas, please let Pastor Sandy know. Thank you to Pat and Jerry Nash for setting up the wonderful “Pray”ground for young church visitors. It is a great addition to our sanctuary.

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## Need to Contact Manito UMC?

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[Facebook: Manito United Methodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/ManitoUnitedMethodistChurch)

[Instagram: @manitoumc](https://www.instagram.com/manitoumc)

[YouTube: Manito United Methodist church](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

## Finance Committee Report

2023 Annual Operating Budget: \$306,331

Year To Date thru November 30, 2023

Income \$ 270,071

Expenses \$ 295,761

Surplus (Deficit) (\$ 25,690)

Through the end of November pledged giving was strong with giving at 99.0% of budget and unpledged giving at 110.3% of budget. These two income areas represent 60.0% of the expected total income. Positive cash flow for the year has been maintained partly because we have withdrawn \$25,000 from a maintenance savings fund we have with Faith Foundation Northwest. The possibility of this was anticipated when the 2023 budget was set, with the belief that expenses might be less than budgeted or that income might be more, so that using savings as income would not be needed. This has not been the case. A strong Christmas Eve offering did help offset the difference between income and expenses.

In December the Finance Committee drafted a 2024 budget of \$322,055. This is a 5% increase from the 2023 budget and considers what it will take to support the needs of our ministry at Manito UMC for 2024. The budget will be finalized at the committee's meeting at noon on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, in the Memorial Lounge. All members and friends of Manito are invited to participate.

Thank you to all who have pledged to support the mission of Manito for 2024. If you have not pledged yet, please consider doing so now. Pledge cards are available by calling or visiting the office. Having pledges helps the Finance Committee manage the church's activities and expenses more accurately.

As 2023 has ended, I would like to acknowledge some of those who have been critically important to Manito's mission as part of the finance team: Treasurer Liz West; Financial Secretary Sindy Barber; Secretary Evelyn Torkelson, and Assistant Treasurers Chris Bafus, Pat Nash, Jim Prock. There are several others who work "behind the scenes", including Shelly Kuney with Memorials, and Ellen Adams, Rod Pennebaker, Polly Carlson, Jim Prock, and Jill Longmeier on the Offering Counting Team.

Greg Plummer

Chair, Finance Committee

